

Kelly Ranch
Habitat Conservation Area

Annual Report
October 2003 - September 2004

Prepared for:
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
California Department of Fish and Game
City of Carlsbad

Prepared by:



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February 2005

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I. Introduction

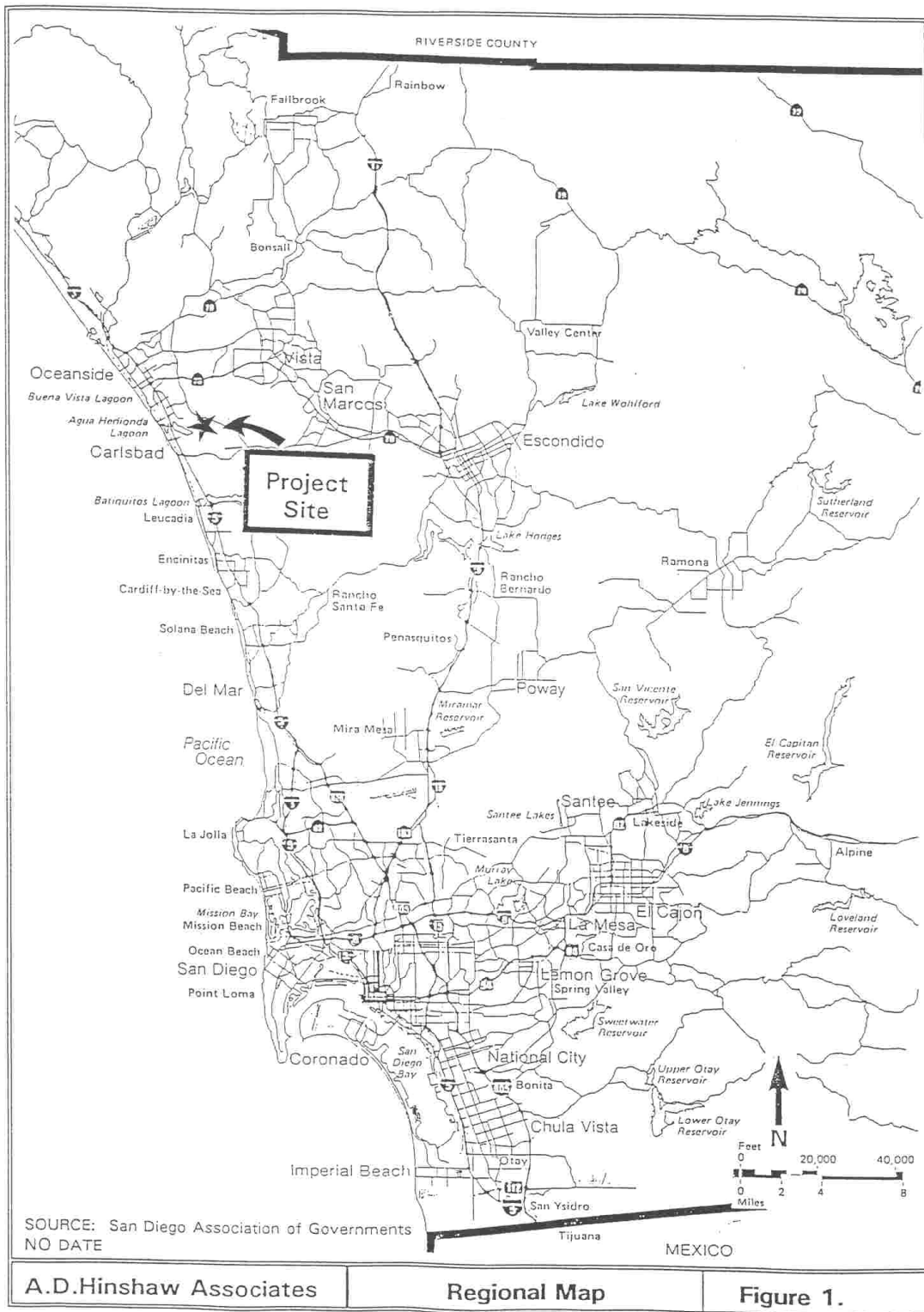
This report summarizes the management activities carried out on the Kelly Ranch Habitat Conservation Area by the preserve manager and assistant preserve manager during the fiscal year of October 1, 2003 to September 31, 2004. The tasks and objectives discussed below are those derived from the *Kelly Ranch Habitat Conservation Area Management Plan*, prepared by the Center for Natural Lands Management (Center) in November of 2003. The Preserve manager is Markus Spiegelberg, assisted by Michael Hylton.

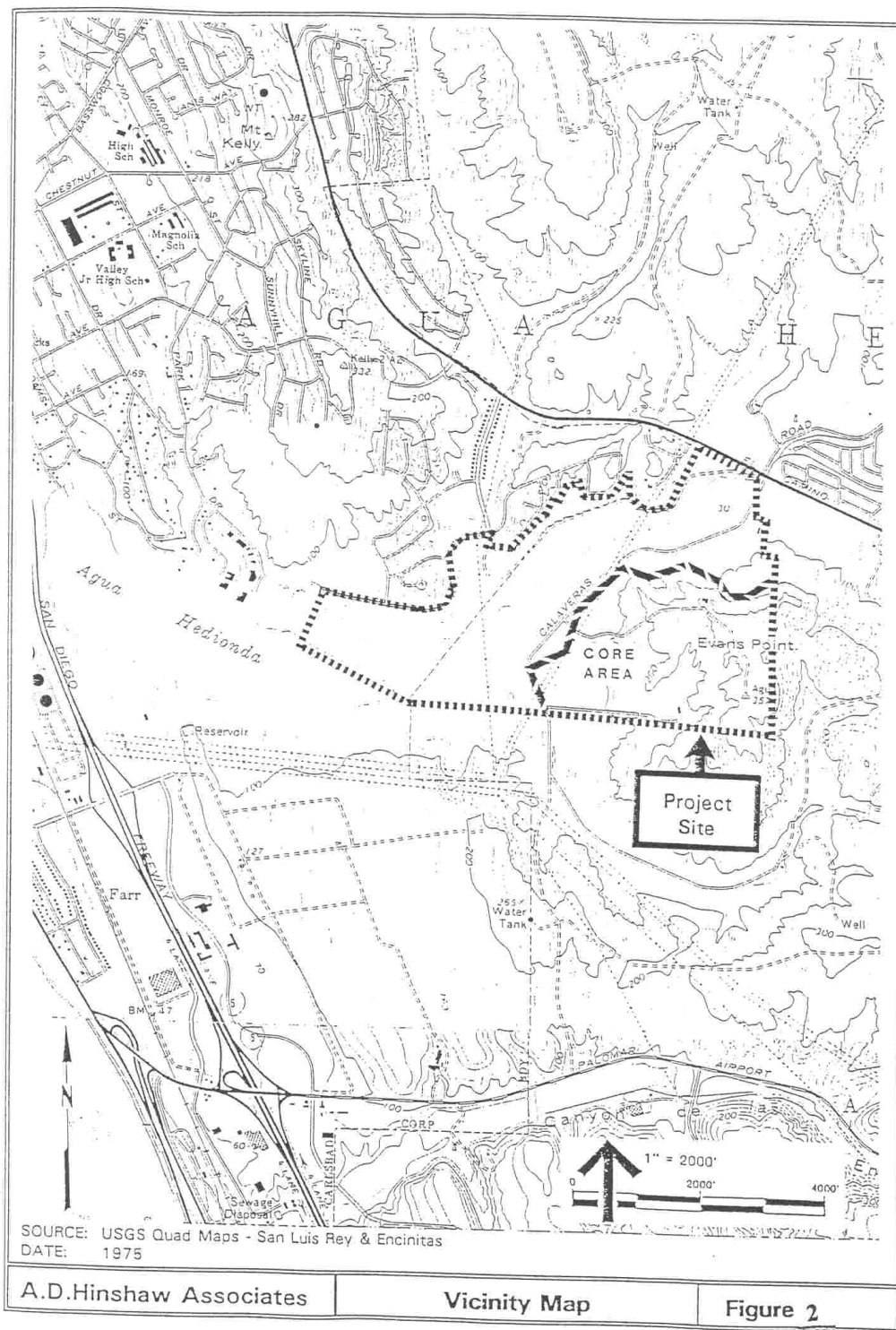
Kelly Ranch is located approximately 1 to 2 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean and lies at the east end of Agua Hedionda Lagoon (Figure 1 and 2). Roads near the Preserve include Cannon Road along the western boundary and Faraday Avenue near its southern boundary. The Preserve (63 acres) is not one unit, but is made of multiple parcels varying in size from a few acres to about 15 acres that are located within the housing development of Kelly Ranch and surrounding communities (Figure 3). Most of the area of the Preserve and adjacent land was formerly known as Evans Point. The site was set aside to protect its habitat, coastal sage scrub and southern maritime chaparral, and the threatened coastal California gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila californica californica*).

The Center for Natural Lands Management began managing Kelly Ranch Habitat Conservation Area in March of 2002. The Center has a conservation easement over the property and is fully endowed for long-term management. Management at the Preserve includes signing and maintaining fences (capital improvements), biological surveys, habitat restoration, public services and reporting. Each of these activities and their Year 2004 results are summarized below and fully described within this report. A complete list of management activities undertaken by date and task is provided in Appendix A.

2004 ACTIVITY SUMMARY

- One individual and a pair of coastal California gnatcatchers were detected during bird community surveys..
- Forty-one coverboards were placed around the preserve and GPS mapped for a 2004-2005 herpatological presence/absence survey.
- 100 Orcutt's hazardia were planted near Cannon Road were watered and their establishment success was monitored and tracked.
- Regular patrol, site enforcement and trash pickup was conducted to protect the Preserve.
- Large wooden preserve sign was moved to a high visibility site at the corner of Hemingway and Cannon Road.
- The Assistant Preserve Manager met with the state wildlife agencies and local public outreach groups to discuss management issues and opportunities.
- Restoration was coordinated with CDF&G and Planning Systems, Inc.
- Educational brochures were distributed to established and new residents.







Coastal California Gnatcatcher

- ▲ Single Male
- Nesting Pair
- ★ Coverboards
- ▭ Kelly Ranch Boundary

Vegetation Communities

- CSS restoration
- Diegan coastal sage scrub
- Disturbed
- Mulefat scrub
- Southern maritime chaparral

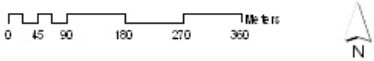


Figure 3
Vegetation and
Sensitive Species

II. Capital Improvements

The 4 X 6 foot redwood sign on Cannon Road was moved west to the Hemingway Drive and Cannon Road intersection. The new site places the sign at eye-level in an active preserve entrance.

III. Biological Surveys

Year 2003 was the first year of biological surveys carried out by the Center. Year 2004 built upon the 2003 surveys and laid groundwork for 2005 surveys. The *Management Plan* outlines the goals of biological monitoring at the Preserve. The general goal of the monitoring activities at Kelly Ranch is to 1) collect inventory data and 2) begin to develop population trend data on individual species and for certain taxonomic groups found within the Preserve. This information will allow the Center to make better informed management decisions should an individual species or population be decreasing or increasing in size. In addition, since the Preserve is small, fragmented and relatively isolated from other large stands of habitat, monitoring activities are directed at determining the effects of habitat fragmentation and urban edge on vegetation and wildlife.

Monitoring at this time includes plant surveys, bird community surveys and directed searches for coastal California gnatcatcher. Non-avian animal species are noted anecdotally during other types of surveys. A herpatological survey is scheduled for 2005.

Table 1. 2004 Biological Surveys

Date	Time	Weather	Survey Type
April 20, 2004	07:00 - 11:52	Clouds-clear, calm-9mph, 51-66°F	Bird Community, CAGN
April 28, 2004	06:00 - 10:00	Haze/fog-clear, 0-7mph, 62-65 °F	Bird Community, CAGN
May 5, 2004	06:30 - 09:15	Low clouds-clear, 1-4mph, 61-67 °F	Bird Community, CAGN
May 14, 2004	06:00 - 10:00	Haze/fog-clear, 1-5mph, 59-76 °F	Bird Community, CAGN

* CAGN = Directed survey for coastal California gnatcatcher

Table 1 outlines survey dates, times, weather conditions and type of survey conducted. Unless noted otherwise, all surveys and monitoring activities were conducted by Michael Hylton and Markus Spiegelberg (USFWS PRT-787-924). Results of surveys are provided in the following sections.

1. Reptiles and Amphibians

Reptiles and amphibians were noted anecdotally during surveys for other taxa. No focused surveys were conducted. Species detected in 2004 include western fence lizards (*Sceloporus occidentalis*), side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*) and Pacific Treefrog (*Pseudacris regilla*).

2. Mammals

No focused mammal surveys were conducted in 2004. Mammals observed during surveys include cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus audubonii*), California ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*), coyote (*Canis latrans*) and racoon (tracks, *Procyon lotor*).

3. Birds

Avian monitoring was conducted during the months of April and May on four separate days (Table 1). Surveys include meandering through the property noting species observed and conducting focused USFWS protocol survey for coastal California gnatcatchers. Appendix B shows the results of bird surveys for 2004, the second year of bird surveys at the preserve.

Notable 2004 observations include a lone male and a pair of coastal California gnatcatcher (nest observed), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), white-tailed kite (*Elanus caeruleus*) and American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*).

4. Insects

Insects were noted during other surveys conducted during the year. Painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*), acmon blue (*Plebejus acmon acmon*) and Behr's metalmark (*Apodemia mormo virgulti*) were some of the butterfly species observed.

5. Plants

The Center updated the plant species list for the preserve in 2003. The survey noted and mapped sensitive species. A list of sensitive species observed and their abundances is provided in Table 2 and is scheduled for update in 2008. These species are mapped within the 2002-3 annual report.

Orcutt's hazardia. The Center owns the only known population of Orcutt's hazardia (OH, *Hazardia orcuttii*) located within the Manchester Habitat Conservation Area. In the spring of 2003, the Center planted 25 individual *H. orcuttii* at Kelly Ranch, just off Cannon Road. In the spring of 2004, the Center planted 100 OH within the same area as 2003. Habitat in this area is similar to Manchester as is its vicinity to the coast and coastal habitats. By fall of 2004, about 100 OH had survived. Measurements of 60 plants are being taken as part of the Center's MOU concerning this planting effort. Data has been submitted to both the USFWS and CDFG.

Table 2. Sensitive Plant List

Name and Sensitivity	1998 (Merkel & Associates)	2003	Notes
California adolphia (<i>Adolphia californica</i>) CNPS List 2	“Several hundred”	24	Next survey in 2008
Del Mar manzanita (<i>Arctostaphylos glandulosa</i> ssp. <i>crassifolia</i>) FE, CNPS List 1B, MHCP.	29 (probably spp. <i>zacaensis</i>)	<50 located in dense habitat and difficult to count	Next survey in 2008
Wart-stemmed ceanothus (<i>Ceanothus verrucosus</i>) CNPS List 2, MHCP	“in the hundreds”	9	Next survey in 2008
Small-flowered microseris (<i>Microseris douglasii</i>) CNPS List 4	20	not found, probably impacted by development	
Prostrate spineflower (<i>Chorizanthe procumbens</i>) CNPS List 4	??? (“loss of majority of population” due to construction)	not found, probably impacted by development	
Western dichondra (<i>Dichondra occidentalis</i>) CNPS List 4	unknown	common	Next survey in 2008
Palmer’s grapplinghook (<i>Harpagonella palmeri</i>) CNPS List 2	???	Approximately 400	Next survey in 2008
Orcutt’s hazardia (<i>Hazardia orcuttii</i>) CT, MHCP	none	25 (transplanted from the Manchester Habitat Conservation Area)	100 planted in 2004
Nuttall’s scrub oak (<i>Quercus dumosa</i>) MHCP, CNPS List 1B	??? (“lightly scattered”)	common	Next survey in 2008
Cliff spurge (<i>Euphorbia misera</i>) MHCP, CNPS List 2	“one thicket”	3	Next survey in 2008
Ashy-spike moss (<i>Selaginella cinerascens</i>) CNPS List 4	???	common	

* FE= Federally listed endangered; CT= California threatened; MHCP= Multiple Habitat Conservation Program Covered Species; CNPS= California Native Plant Society; ???= no initial count made during planning process.

IV. Habitat Maintenance

Habitat restoration goals for the preserve include removing non-native plants from the preserve. For the most part the Preserve is in good condition and has little non-native plant cover. In 2004, we removed about 20 fennel clumps, and 10 tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*). Four saltcedar, (*Tamarisk spp*). trees were treated in the retention basin on Cannon west of Hemmingway Avenue. Several pampas grass, (*Cortaderia selloana*) clumps were treated upstream behind the development near Frost Avenue.

V. Public Service

Public service activities have centered on patrolling the preserve in an attempt to control dumping and associated vandalism (Appendix A). In addition, public services include trash pick up and meeting with neighboring home owners who have questions or concerns in regards to the HCA.

Brochures were developed and distributed to neighboring residents. The brochure provided a map and description of the property, as well as contact information.

At this time there are few problems at the preserve. At times there is sign of vagrants living in shacks near the southern boundary of the preserve, but we have cleared old shacks and all debris and have not observed any new shacks recently.

VI. Reporting

Encompassed within the heading of reporting are all data analysis, GIS and remote sensing, meetings and regional coordination, photo documentation activities and budget and financial status.

Data that has been entered into digital databases include bird count and plant list data. Data on preserve boundary and sensitive species locations have been entered into a GIS database. This report represents the third annual report for this preserve. An annual work plan for the next fiscal year will be provided to the wildlife agencies in January of 2005.

Finally, the Preserve manager has maintained all necessary agency permits to allow the continued monitoring of the Preserve's biota.

Budget/Financials: The total expenditures for 2003-4 were \$16,025. The total funds available (September 2004), including endowment and temporarily restricted funds, are \$336,266.

VII. Summary and Discussion

Management at Kelly Ranch continues to be successful at protecting the Preserve from human encroachment, building baseline biological data, and developing a better understanding of the Preserve and its regional context. Preserve Management in Year 2004-2005 will continue in a similar fashion as this year. A detailed work plan for the Year 2004-2005 fiscal year has been developed for this purpose.

Appendix A

2004 Site Visit and Activity Summary

Preserve Manager	Date	Task	Hours
Markus Spiegelberg	10/3/03	Patrol	2.0
Michael Hylton	10/10/03	Watered Orcutt's hazardia	3.5
Michael Hylton	10/21/03	Patrol and water Orcutt's hazardia.	2.0
Michael Hylton	11/11/03	Watered Orcutt's hazardia	2.0
Markus Spiegelberg	11/11/03	Measure Orcutt's hazardia	2.0
Michael Hylton	12/12/03	Patrol and check on Orcutt's hazardia	2.5
Michael Hylton	1/8/04	Meet with SDGE	2.0
Michael Hylton	1/9/04	Patrol	3.5
Michael Hylton	1/20/04	Patrol and brief bird survey	5.0
Markus Spiegelberg	1/20/04	Patrol	2.0
Michael Hylton	2/6/04	Check on Orcutt's hazardia, patrol	1.5
Michael Hylton	2/11/04	Patrol	3.5
Michael Hylton	2/13/04	Patrol and set 6 coverboards	2.5
Michael Hylton	2/20/04	Patrol and set 20 coverboards	2.5
Markus Spiegelberg	2/24/04	Measure and check Orcutt's hazardia	2.0
Michael Hylton	3/25/04	Patrol and set 11 coverboards	2.0
Michael Hylton	3/25/04	Patrol	1.5
Michael Hylton	4/16/04	Patrol and check on non-natives	1.0
Michael Hylton	4/16/04	Patrol	1.0
Michael Hylton/MS	4/20/04	CAGN survey	5.0
Michael Hylton/MS	4/28/04	CAGN survey	4.0
Michael Hylton	4/28/04	Meeting with Spyglass developer regarding encampment clean-up.	0.5
Michael Hylton	4/29/04	Patrol	1.0
Michael Hylton	4/30/04	Patrol.	1.0
Michael Hylton/MS	5/5/04	Bio survey	3.0
Michael Hylton	5/14/04	Public outreach	2.0
Michael Hylton/MS	5/14/04	Bird survey	4.0
Michael Hylton	6/4/04	Patrol	1.0
Michael Hylton	6/15/04	Patrol	1.5
Markus Spiegelberg	6/18/04	Measure Orcutt's hazardia	1.0
Michael Hylton	6/25/04	Patrol	0.5
Michael Hylton	7/8/04	Sign lower preserve areas	2.0
Michael Hylton	7/9/04	Spray 3 tamarisk trees	2.0
Michael Hylton	7/14/04	GPS cover board locations	3.5
Markus Spiegelberg	7/23/04	Water orcutts hazardia	2.0
Michael Hylton	8/19/04	Patrol	2.0
Michael Hylton	8/31/04	Check on non-natives	1.0
Markus Spiegelberg	9/3/04	Water orcutts hazardia	1.0
Markus Spiegelberg	9/28/04	Measure orcutts hazardia	1.0

Appendix B. Animal Species Observed

Species Name	Scientific Name	Notes
Invertebrates		
Painted lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	
Acmon blue	<i>Icaricia acmon</i>	
Behr's metalmark	<i>Apodemia mormo virgulti</i>	
Mammals		
California ground squirrel	<i>Spermophilus beecheyi</i>	
Cottontail rabbit	<i>Sylvilagus audubonii</i>	
Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>	1 observed
Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>	tracks observed
Woodrat	<i>Neotoma sp.</i>	
Herpetofauna		
Pacific Treefrog	<i>Pseudacris regilla</i>	
Side-blotched lizard	<i>Uta stansburiana</i>	
Western fence lizard	<i>Sceloporus occidentalis</i>	
Birds		
Resident		Migrant
American Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	Ash-throated flycatcher <i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>
Anna's hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	Cliff swallow <i>Hirundo pyrrhonota</i>
Bewicks wren	<i>Thyromanes bewickii</i>	Orange-crowned Warbler <i>Vermivora celata</i>
Black phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans semiatra</i>	
Black-headed grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>	Fly-overs or Uncommon
California gnatcatcher	DB, NO, single male and pair	American crow <i>Corvus brachyrhchos</i>
California quail	<i>Callipepla californica</i>	Great blue heron <i>Ardea herodias</i>
California thrasher	<i>Toxostoma redivivum</i>	Western Gull <i>Larus occidentalis</i>
California towhee	<i>Pipilo crissalis</i>	Red-tailed hawk <i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>
Common Yellow-throat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	Red-shouldered hawk <i>Buteo lineatus</i>
Costa's hummingbird	<i>Archilochus costae</i>	Killdeer <i>Charadrius vociferus</i>
House finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	
Lesser goldfinch	<i>Carduelis psaltria</i>	
Morning dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	
Northern mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottus</i>	
Spotted towhee	<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>	
Western scrub jay	<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>	
Wrentit	<i>Chamaea fasciata henshawi</i>	

NO= Nest observed; DB= Definite breeder;